Boston, Massachusetts,
Monday Eveg. May 21. 1849.

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Dear Sir,

The last two Steamers have each brought me a letter from you, and by them both, (together with one from Miss Carpenter by the former, and one from Dr. Hutton by the latter vessel) I have been much rejoiced and comforted. Your first letter - the "business" one as you call it; - and Miss Carpenter's (of Apr. 6. & 13.), I received at Leicester Saturday eveg. May 12th, where I had stopped for a few days on my return from the Annual Meeting of the American A. S. Society. The other two came to hand here on Friday last. Dr. Hutton sent me a copy of the "Inquirer" containing his brief remarks on Mr. Clay's Emancipation Scheme - how good they were! how strong & clearly the good old man (perhaps I ought not to call him old!) seized and exposed the fallacies and abominations of that hypocritical, heartless scheme; - I call them so, because of the affectation of justice & philanthropy with which Mr. C. began his Letter. In just such ways, by assuming the attitude of great benevolence, great love of liberty, of universal liberty, has Henry Clay managed to get a great 'American' reputation, and blind the eyes of this people to his real character - that of a selfish politician and a consummate dissembler. Nevertheless, he has, I am happy to say, never cheated quite people enough, to carry out his plans upon the Presidency - and now his prospects are quite good for nothing. - Dr. Hutton wrote to me regretting that he had omitted noticing in the Inquirer

one or two features of Mr. Clay's Plan, and couched his letter, or rather that part of it, in such terms, that I thought he designed it for publication, and it will accordingly appear, I presume both in the "Standard" and "Liberator" of this week, as well as his letter in the "Inquirer". — I have to thank you also for a copy of the same number of the "Inquirer". This, with your letter, were sent to me at my father's house just after breakfast, and I enjoyed the perusal of them there, including the account of the "Western Christian Union" at Bristol. Very much I liked your introductory remarks at the meeting; and perhaps was as much gratified, as many of your friends about you, at the warm and general expression of regard which accompanied the usual vote of thanks to you. The meeting I think must have been an uncommonly good one; from the report in the "Inq:" I should judge it would bear away the palm from most of the meetings of the B. & F. U. A., which I have seen reported. There was quite a variety in the topics, as well as in the style of treating them. I read not all the speeches but most of them. It seemed to me particularly appropriate that the case of Mr. Shore was called up by Mr. Armstrong. — I thank you too for the "Britt Mirror" (by the first arrival) containing the ~~first~~ full account of the execution of that poor girl. How dreadful such a strangling & choking to death of a fellow-being! nor does the fact of her having sinned in a similar way afford the least justification for it, unless retaliation is to be regarded as a righteous

and Christian principle, and civil government thinks to inculcate in an effectual manner the sacredness of human life by becoming the deliberate taker of human life itself. I knew that Mr. Garrison would be glad to publish portions of that account; and I was not surprised when he afterwards told me he should publish the whole, long as it is. It will appear on Friday of this week, the very day that Washington Goode is to be hanged in the Boston Gaol Yard. For our Governor and Council have refused to grant an ear to 25,000 petitioners for his life, and in spite of every effort, Strangled he must be on Friday next — in my judgment an act much more deserving the name of murder, than the act for which he dies, granting that he committed it, which is not by any means certain! Some very earnest protests against the execution have been recently signed & sent to the Governor. Mr. Wm. H. Channing preached yesterday P.M. a powerful discourse, a large part of it devoted to Goode's case, and took occasion to utter a most solemn protest, in the name of all that is good & ~~lovely~~ lovely & noble, against the deed. — I believe it is pretty satisfactorily established — is it not? — that since your Government have reduced the number of Capital offences, from some 200 to 1 (am I not right in these figures?), the commission of those offences has not increased, if the increase of population be taken into the reckoning. I have seen what I thought reliable tables which went to show that, in most instances, the crimes had diminished. If so,

what ground can either a reasonable or a humane man find for advocating the farther employment of the Gallows?

I was also deeply interested in Mr. Rufsel Carpenter's case, and with the manly way in which he had acted in a trying circumstances. Your Congregation, I am sure, will be very sorry for her let him go, when they come to think the matter over more coolly. I am glad he is coming to America. I trust he will find some field in which he may beneficially both sow and reap, whilst among us and know that he will find some friends who will gladly aid him according to their ability. - I hope (between you and me) that he won't imitate the unworthy example of Mr Hucks in attaching himself almost exclusively to the popular and 'sit-still' side, shunning those of our men who have the best, the truest, and the most life. But say not this, to have it get to his ears in any way, directly or indirectly. He had better act independently. I furnished to Mr. Garrison an account of this case also, which I think likely will appear this week. Also, I sent to the "Standard" some extracts from Miss Carpenter's note to me (without her name, of course) and some remarks of yours, as to the state of the Capital punishment question in England now, both of which will probably be inserted this week, if at all. If all the above appear, I shall have been the means through the kindness of yourself & other English friends of furnishing the Anti-Slavery papers with a good deal of their 'making up' this week.

Tuesday P. M. May 22. I am always glad to get an Inquirer, which contains anything bearing upon matters on this side the water. Neither Mr. Garrison nor the Editor of the Standard has ever received the I. in exchange, though copies of both those papers have been sent to it for long periods; how it is at present, I cannot say. – I shall keep a look-out for the "Mary Jane", and desire my brother to do so also. – I was sorry to find that, after all, my letter to yourself & Mr. Armstrong by the sailing packet went burdened with a pretty heavy postage. Your Government means that no letter which it can lay its hands on shall escape the tax. I consider it has no shadow of right to charge the 8°. on a letter conveyed to your shores without any expense to it. For the convenience of merchants, Train's packets carry mail-bags; but though they charge not, themselves, for the transportation, your Govt. (& perhaps ours too) takes care to make up for it.

The letter for Mr. Joshua Coffin came safely to hand, and was forwarded to him without delay. There seemed no need of change in any respect; I should think it would perfectly answer his purpose. I wrote to him what you said about "skip no ceremony" with your letter, in case Geo. Thompson or others wrote to him. If the "Inquirer" should not incline to publish his replies, and you know of no suitable English journal which would, I would suggest that you try Glasgow. There are one or two papers there that I feel pretty confident would insert them; if you have occasion to try, you might address Robert Lindsay

"William Smeal,
161 Gallowgate, Glasgow.

We have recent accounts from Washington that Capt. Drayton, of the Schooner Pearl, has been found "not guilty" of stealing the Slaves from the District of Columbia, but is convicted of illegally transporting them, and condemned to pay a fine of $140. for each Slave, and remain in prison until paid. This fine would amount to nearly $11.000, if reckoned upon the whole number (77), but the statement is that the last trial was for only 25 of the slaves; if so, farther trials must follow. It has been a clumsily managed case, setting aside its objectionable nature on other grounds. — The administration of Genl. Taylor is not giving very good satisfaction, even to his Northern partizans. Indeed such a rapacious spirit of office hunting enters into our Presidential elections, that there is sure to be a very large proportion of discontented grumblers. — You will have heard doubtless, before receiving this of a most unfortunate affair in New York — the attack upon the Astor Place Opera House, where Mr. Macready was playing, by a furious mob, who had been inflamed by the artifices of Forrest, an envious & spiteful "tragedian" of that City. This fellow has persecuted Macready during his whole visit to this country, but heretofore had been unable to accomplish anything, and in desperation resorted to this violence. The result was a very sad one, but the City authorities triumphed, and drove off the Mob, but not till after a number of lives had been lost. I believe Mr. M. returns to

England by tomorrow's Steamer.

Wm. H. Channing told me, a month ago, that he would call at our Office and leave a paper in answer to your inquiries about the Portrait; but he has not done so, I am sorry to say. I will bear it in mind, and think that your patience will yet be rewarded.

I have no particular cause to enlarge upon the Annual Meeting of the Am. A. S. Soc'y. at New York, as by this same Ship you will receive the Antislavery papers containing very full reports. It was an admirable meeting. Mr. Garrison said he felt entirely satisfied with the result. Mrs. Lucretia Mott of Phil'a. took quite a deep interest in the business meetings, remaining till the close and occasionally speaking. F. Douglass was in good heart and voice, and spoke, twice at least, very ably. He introduced me to his friend Miss Griffiths; I had a little chat with her; but as I was a good deal occupied otherwise, I did not get much acquainted with her. She said she intended visiting Boston, but I believe not immediately. I believe she has now gone to Rochester with F. D. Her sister is with her. They attended the great meeting of the Am'n. Soc'y at the Tabernacle, and I understood Mrs. G. was much pleased with the Speech of Wendell Phillips there. If they are intelligent ladies, as I presume them to be, they cannot but have their eyes opened somewhat by attending such meetings as that. They could not at least have

been in any doubt as to whether the "Old Organization" had any friends or any influence, or whether they were the unknown & unconsidered segment they have been represented to be. Few in numbers they certainly are, but they comprise pretty much all the active and aggressive Anti-Slavery of the country. The meeting, of which I speak, was very largely attended, and by an audience which remained together patient & deeply interested nearly 4 hours in the midst of that busy week. The "Am. & Foreign" had not more than two-thirds as large an audience, though they had the attraction of Long-sniping; and rather a dull meeting, it was said, besides. — So, you see, that in spite of all we say about not looking to numbers as any test of truth, yet, (such is the weakness of the flesh!) we do like to see a crowded audience, and feel that it is a good thing to be well-sustained in point of numbers, as well as otherwise. — The danger is in doing, or forbearing to do anything, for the sake of securing numbers; and this, I trust, we shall never do; but I give you the fact as they were, and as our "bigotted New Organization" (so Miss G. (for so I was assured she was, by somebody) saw the

William W. Brown told me the other day that he intended going to England in September or October next. The Crafts have no thought of going with him. He says he shall go quite independently of Mr. Richardson or any of her schemes — that he had wholly declined receiving any money from Mr. R., though it had been rather a

upon him by her, - at least enough to pay expenses. He told me that he had written to her that he could take no position which would even seem to separate him from Mr Garrison & his friends, with whom he (W.W.B.) was in entire sympathy, & agreement as to their main principles and measures. I congratulated B. on having so firmly taken & avowed this determination. I hope he will stick to it. He is a very good fellow, of very fair abilities, & has been quite true to the cause. But he likes to make popular & taking speeches, and keeps a careful eye upon his own benefit. The A.S. cause has been everything to him, in point of respectability elevating and educating him; & giving him a respectable position, &. He owes much to it; and he ought to be true to it. - I do certainly wish him the best success in his visit to your country; he is deserving of a friendly reception and of encouragement. I hope he will fall in with good, judicious & disinterested friends.

I should have said before that Miss Estlin's note to Mrs. May came duly to hand, and that it has given much satisfaction to Mrs. M. and myself. Please give to her the best regards of us both. We are sorry to hear of her ill-health. We can sympathize with her. - My wife's health is not very firm, and mine has been more impaired this Spring than at any time for six years. - After the New England Convention (next week) I am expecting to leave the city, and pass the most of the Summer in Leicester. I hope that the change of air & occupation may help me, in point of health. Letters, &c. may

henceforward be directed to me at L. – or if directed to Anti Sl: office, Boston, they will be sent to me. I shall get them quicker if sent to Leicester.

I cannot wonder that you and other English readers of the Liberator do not like H. C. Wright's letters in ~~the~~ that paper, for I do not like their style & manner myself – & very often not the matter. This is a pretty extensive feeling here; but Mr. Garrison esteems and loves H. C. W., and to the communications of such a man, as he regards him to be, however different from his own views or opposite to his taste, he could never refuse admission. The Lib: is equally open, as you have seen, to those who would censure or refute H. C. W. For myself, I do not read one-half of his articles. I have had difficulty in getting thro' with his Autobiography, an exceedingly self-eulogistic book, written with a tone of self-complacency, I think, exceeding that of any other book I ever met with. The book is open to severe criticism, and will get it. It is not however without its interest, though less interesting & less valuable, to me, than I had expected to find it. H. C. W. has gone to Ohio again, to spend the Summer.

An admirable and most valuable work has just been published, a copy of which I am desirous of sending to you. It is a Review of the Mexican War, its Causes and Consequences. A Chapter which he has introduced (the author is Judge William Jay, of West Chester Co., N. York)

upon the character and political career of John Quincy Adams, with special reference to his action upon Slavery, and its collateral questions & issues, is of deep interest; and the whole book, so far as I have read it, is one which will do much to show to the world the real character of that infamous War, and the real motives and objects of its authors & perpetrators.

I fear I did not convey to you a correct idea of Dr. Snell of N. Brookfield. I should not regard him as a humbug. He is a rather stern, self-opinionated, & dictatorial old man; priding himself on his Calvinism & his spiritual(!) authority; bigoted to his creed; relentless towards heretics - a hard old man, ~~I~~ such as the preaching of Calvinism instead of Christianity is very apt to produce. With all, a staunch Whig and upholder of the Dominant party & of the established order of things (hanging included) in Massachusetts - a voter for old Zach. Taylor to be President, that bloody, coarse old Slaveholder & fighter. Such is a pretty strong, but I think not an unfair representation of old parson Snell; and Mr. G. knew him well, and how much & how little the phrases of that religion, which is pure, peaceable, full of love & of compassion & of forgiveness, meant on his lips or from his pen.

You will have seen that Mr. Garrison has been called to the trial of losing another child; — a very severe trial it has been to him and to his wife, who, almost literally, refuses to be comforted. They blame themselves not having been more vigilant, & more prompt in securing medical aid, &c. &c. He was a fine little boy, and the only one they say he was G.'s most promising child.

With respectful remembrances of all my British friends, I am, Most truly Yours
Samuel May Jr.

P. S. I send a copy of the "Chr. Reflector" that you may see what Rev. H. V. Bellows of N. York (Ed. of Christian Inquirer) says of the Anti Sl. meetings in that City.

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